The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A refrigeration apparatus, comprising:

a heat source side heat exchanger;

a utilization side heat exchanger;

a four-way switching valve being configured to switch a direction of a refrigerant flow when changing between a cooling operation and a heating operation;

a liquid side refrigerant circuit connecting the heat source side heat exchanger and the utilization side heat exchanger;

a heat source side expansion valve being connected to the liquid side refrigerant circuit;

a bridge circuit having a first check valve, a second check valve, a third check valve, and a fourth check valve,

the first check valve permitting only distribution of the refrigerant from the heat source side heat exchanger to the heat source side expansion valve,

the second check valve permitting only distribution of the refrigerant from the utilization side heat exchanger to the heat source side expansion valve,

the third check valve permitting only distribution of the refrigerant from the expansion valve to the utilization side heat exchanger,

the fourth check valve permitting only distribution of the refrigerant from the expansion valve to the heat source side heat exchanger; and

a gas separation apparatus ~~including a separation membrane connected to a liquid side refrigerant circuit~~ being configured to connect [[a]] the heat source side heat exchanger and [[a]] the utilization side heat exchanger,

the gas separation apparatus includes a separation membrane being connected to the liquid side refrigerant circuit, the gas separation apparatus being connected between an area where the first check valve and the second check valve are disposed and the expansion valve,

the separation membrane being configured to separate from [[a]] the refrigerant and the gas separation apparatus being configured to discharge out of the liquid side refrigerant circuit a noncondensable gas remaining inside a refrigerant connecting pipe by operating a compressor and circulating the refrigerant inside the liquid side refrigerant circuit.

7. (Currently Amended) The refrigeration apparatus as recited in claim 6, wherein

the liquid side refrigerant circuit includes a receiver configured to accumulate the refrigerant flowing between the area where the first check valve and the second check valve are disposed and the expansion valve, ~~the heat source side heat exchanger and the utilization side heat exchanger~~, and

the gas separation apparatus is connected to the receiver, and is configured to separate the noncondensable gas contained in a gas phase of the refrigerant that is accumulated in an upper part of the receiver.

8. (Previously Presented) The refrigeration apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein

the gas separation apparatus further includes a discharge valve configured to release the noncondensable gas into the atmosphere after separation.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)